

## The Logic of a "Network" Gathering

- It is meant to be a supportive / validating environment.

*Ask: Did people walk away more empowered to the task of OCP? Did they feel loved in their failures and success? Did they become more convinced that they are walking in the will of God?*

- It is meant to be a learning environment.

*Ask: Did people walk away with new insights related to OCP? Did they learn from each other? Did they learn from the material? Are they motivated to continue learning?*

...successful independent learners surveyed reported that learning networks of fellow enthusiasts -- networks in which knowledge was transmitted through oral encounters -- were their most important resources for developing their expertise. Not only were these networks congenial settings in which information could be shared, but they also provided the independent learners with an evaluative arena. (Stephen D. Brookfield, *Understanding and Facilitating Adult Learning*, p.43)

- It is meant to be an environment of accountability.

*Ask: Did people walk away feeling the need to actually do something related to OCP? Did they have a chance to share what's been happening since they were last together? Did they feel personally challenged to grow and change, beyond the insight they received that apply to the work of ministry?*

- It is a spiritual/missional discipline.

*Ask: Did people attend? Do they recognize this gathering is a part of their own personal development as a disciple/leader? Do they understand that equipping, learning, and unlearning are a part of how God forms us "in Christ"?*

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We recommend a training team of TWO. This 1) models shared leadership, 2) allows different insights and perspectives to be offered, 3) recognizes that different people connect with different facilitation styles, and 4) provides each trainer with prayer covering when it is his/her turn. It also means 5) the meeting can go on if one facilitator can't be present.

"...it is important...to consider who will be the *trainers*... I have discovered that I am much more accountable to the learners when I am in a teaching team of two. Lyra Srinivasan shares this insight: 'The enabling function at a workshop is not an easy task. It is best entrusted to a team of two facilitators rather than one....Unlike a lecture session where participants are largely passive, the high intensity and sensitivity of an interactive group process can be overwhelming for a lone trainer, even one highly experienced' (1992, p. 92). It is not merely a question of fatigue, although that is a serious consideration, but it is also a question of attention to the learners." (Jane Vella, *Training Through Dialogue*, p. 15)

## Overview of the 19 Sessions\*

### Cultivating the Hearts of Lost People

1. *Cultivating the Leader's Heart*  
In organic movements, leaders need to be more than skilled. They need to be teachable to Christ and others, continually growing personally and spiritually, and have an orientation toward authority that is empowering.
2. *Cultivating the Heart of your Team*  
Organic church planting teams, often consisting of people with a background in church, need to rethink the nature of their mission. This session helps leaders know how to do that. Additionally tools are suggested for leaders to use with their teams in guiding them toward corporate prayer and organic principles.
3. *Cultivating the Hearts of People*  
There are persons, families, and groups within our lives who don't know Christ. While it might seem right to just "share the gospel", it seems wise from a spiritual vantage point, to do what can be done to prepare their hearts to receive the good news of Jesus. This includes identifying persons of peace, often the "first dominoe" person in the emergence of a new church.
4. *Cultivating the Heart of your Region*  
Beyond individuals, regions of people (like cities, neighborhoods, work places, campuses) require more comprehensive approaches to cultivation. This session deals with spiritual warfare, tools for urban research, and practical prayer strategies.

### Sowing the Kingdom Seed

5. *The Seed is the Message of the Kingdom*  
The Bible teaches that the seed sown by the sower is the Word of God. It is the good news of Jesus our King. Organic approaches think differently about evangelism, approaching it in ways that allow the Bible and the Holy Spirit to be the primary evangelistic agents. Here we learn that it is possible to be spiritually dependent while being missionally strategic.
6. *The Seed is the Ambassadors of the Kingdom*  
God uses believers in the advance of his kingdom. The life of Christ illustrates that the seed must die in order for there to be greater fruitfulness. This session looks at the life of the Christian as a witness. The big question deals with what God does in us as we intersect with others.
7. *The Seed is the Community of the Kingdom*  
When the seed is sown it is not just the message itself but it is the essence of what will be. As the way of Jesus is planted in indigenous soil, it grows up as an indigenous church plant - fitting well to the culture in which it germinates and grows.

15. *Harvesting Churches that Reproduce*

Understanding how churches multiply is important, even though there does come a day where it just happens...by itself. Reproduction does happen naturally but because we have by and large produced sterile churches in North America, the principles of church reproduction need to be spelled out. This session does that.

16. *Harvesting and the Large Group Question*

"What about the large group meeting?" This may be one of the most common questions asked about the organic church. In this session we consider the implications of large group gatherings, talk about how to decide if you should or shouldn't, and we deal with the concept of the church in the city.

## Propagating Teams for the Discipleship of Regions

17. *Propagating and the Development of 4:11 Teams*

While anyone can plant a simple, organic church...God has called out uniquely gifted people for the work of extending the gospel into new territory. Understanding how to create a culture in which these people emerge and ways to identify and release them will help us be increasingly intentional toward discipling the nations.

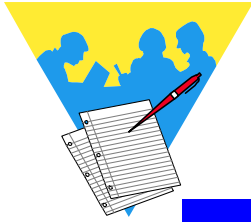
18. *Propagating and Empowering Global/Local Movements*

Organic churches know no boundaries. In fact, they like to grow in the crevices where nothing else seems to grow. If we are to obey Jesus' Great Commission and disciple our cities and the peoples of this world, we must prepare and release ordinary people for organic church reproduction, near AND far!

19. *Closure Meeting - Sending out the Greenhouse Planters*

In concluding our months together, let's celebrate God's goodness and release one another to the fields he has called us to. There were also be discussions regarding how we can continue to partner together to reproduce additional Greenhouse Monthly Gatherings and ways to cooperate for reaching our city.

\* Subject to change as we learn more about the work of organic church planting!



## Organic Church Planters' GREENHOUSE Orientation Stuff

### *The Orientation Gathering: a Suggested Agenda*

Attached below is a Self-Test that can be used as an Ice Breaker if you like...

1. Worship (15 minutes)
2. Go around the circle and ask: (20 minutes)
  - What is your name and where do you live?
  - How did you become interested in "organic" church planting?
3. Critical Incident Exercise (15 minutes) [Provide a piece of paper for each participant.]
  - Write a paragraph describing a painful experience you've had as a church planter. (Or, if you haven't been involved in church planting before, write a paragraph describing a difficult experience in ministry.)
4. Invite a couple of people to share their paragraph. (5 minutes)
5. Ask: *Why would I ask you to write about experiences of pain in ministry?* (5 minutes)  
Answer:  
*Because we want you to know that this process will connect with each of us in our hardships and in our needs. I want you to see that you are not alone. Others have been there or are going there and they are all around you in this circle. We will be sharing the journey.*
6. Review the Organic Process (20 minutes)
  - Do this by asking people who were at the Weekend Intensive to share:
    - something memorable and/or
    - something new that they heard/received and/or
    - something that challenged them personally
    - and/or something that they didn't understand & need clarification on

(Facilitator: Use some or all of these depending on time. And, if you will...keep a record, especially if you discover things that need clarification -- that would help CMA Facilitators know what didn't connect on the Weekend.)

- Then, revisit the 6 stages: cultivating, sowing, growing, tending, harvesting, and propagating. Ask someone to sum up, in their own words and briefly, each stage, especially (of course) focusing on the 1<sup>st</sup> three). (5 minutes).

7. Orient them to the process of the Greenhouse (10 minutes)
  - 19+ sessions - includes this orientation and a final "celebration / send off" gathering. (Facilitator NOTE: Usually groups will take off July/August/ December each year, but that's up to you. Also, you may want to provide a tentative calendar, etc.)
  - There will be 3 sessions\* for each of the 6 stages of the Organic Process (\*Cultivating has 4 and Propagating has 2.)
  - Let them know that on \_\_\_\_\_ - next year, we will all come together for the GREENHOUSE Weekend Intensive Part 2.
  - Each Monthly session may include (1) some worship, (2) some sharing, (3) some learning, (4) some discussion, (5) some consideration of "next steps", (6) some reflection time and (7) some prayer. Again, that's up to you.
  - Talk about Costs/Financial matters.\*
  
8. On a flip chart or a white board, make a list of the expectations participants have on this 19 month process. Ask: What do you expect (or at least hope) to see happen as a result of gathering for the next 19 months in the Greenhouse? (Facilitator: Be sure to keep this list to refer to from month to month.) (10 minutes)
  
9. Have participants think about where they are in the organic process and what they need as they progress. Have them share this with one or two others sitting near them. Invite them to pray for each other. (You might also want to get this information from them. Have them write it down on a 3x5 card, with their name, and give it to you before they leave. As facilitators, it will be helpful for you to know where they are in the process, or, where they think they are.) (10 minutes)
  
10. Pray for each other in duos or triads. (5 minutes)

*\* For more on finances, see the next page*

## *Monthly Greenhouse and Finances*

*What will it cost to run a Greenhouse? Here are some things to consider:*

### **1. How much will it cost to make copies?**

CMA provides you with masters of the material and the right to duplicate them for participants. There are approx. 200 pages of materials. If you need to go to Kinkos and the cost is .05cents per page then each person's notes will cost you \$10.00. If you have access to a copy machine that won't cost you, then you may not need to charge that cost...or, your COPY STORE may charge more.

You may want to add another 50 or so pages to your tally as you or others may find something worthy copying as a resource for participants.

### **2. Will you provide food, snacks, drinks or will you create a schedule for people to bring snacks?**

If you provide food, etc. you may want to include that in your costs. Keep in mind napkins, cups, etc. The choice is yours, but it may be better for many reasons to have people bring goodies from month to month.

### **3. Where will you have the Greenhouse? Will there be a charge?**

If you have the Greenhouse in a home, you probably want have a usage fee! If you meet somewhere else, you may. A house is usually best, but make sure it is sufficiently comfortable for participants to learn and participate.

### **4. Will you provide a storage notebook for participants or will you have them provide their own?**

We suggest you provide a notebook for paying participants. A nice cover can be customized for your group by someone with graphic ability. Purchasing tabs and preparing them for 1) Foundations; 2) Cultivating; 3) Sowing; 4) Growing; 5) Tending; 6) Harvesting; 7) Propagating; 8) Administration; 9) People is a good idea. The notebook will give people a way to store their stuff and not lose it from month to month. Your costs will need to take this into account.

### **5. CMA does not charge for the material.**

We have struggled with the question of "how much" to charge for this material. So far, the Lord has not released us to provide it for a fee. However, you may want to consider a donation to Paul Kaak, for use of the material. Paul put many uncompensated hours into the development of this material. He does not expect remuneration. However, facilitators and/or participants of a Monthly Greenhouse Regional Group may choose to offer Paul an honorarium. If so, a set amount could be included in the Greenhouse costs OR each person could give as they feel led. THIS IS NOT a requirement for use of the material, but we would like to ask you to consider this as a possibility.

## Organic Principles: A Self-Test

*Have fun thinking about these questions and discussing your answers.  
Enjoy hearing the insights of one another!*

1. The best time to start a new church is when the current church is too big. T/F
2. New disciples require at least one year of intensive training before being allowed to instruct others. T/F
3. Going door to door with the gospel message is a strategic evangelism methodology. T/F
4. The monies given from an organic church should always include something for payment of the person who leads the group. T/F
5. The gospel of the Kingdom is not to be shared outside one's personal *oikos*. T/F
6. The complex nature of people requires that we don't simplify the means we use for discipleship / mentoring. T/F
7. The best place for a church to meet is in a home. T/F
8. The best marketing for an organic church is:
  - ❑ a. Promotional flyers
  - ❑ b. Transformed lives
  - ❑ c. Door-to-door invitation
  - ❑ d. B and C
  - ❑ e. All of the above
9. The very best way to keep a church from growing stagnant is:
  - ❑ a. To continue to offer more insightful teaching
  - ❑ b. To develop more leaders
  - ❑ c. To improve the sense of family within the church
  - ❑ d. To stay on mission
  - ❑ e. To have a vital youth program
10. A local church should develop a global focus
  - ❑ a. in the process of evangelizing the lost who will make up the church
  - ❑ b. after the challenges of the 1<sup>st</sup> year have passed
  - ❑ c. once a secure funding base is established
  - ❑ d. after a solid local outreach ministry is in place
  - ❑ e. when the first missionary emerges from within the church
  - ❑ f. B and C

## Growing Indigenous Disciples and Churches

### 8. Growth and Organic Structures

While the planters wait for growth, they can be getting ready. By equipping themselves with structures that require little to no money, are very reproducible, and have an avoidance of inappropriate dependency built in, the church planting team will be ready to encourage the growth of new believers.

### 9. Growth and Practices, Patterns, and Sayings

Establishing missional values is important - right from the start. This session looks at some of the basic practices of the early church as well as patterns, places, and times for meeting. How to pass on simple and yet profound truths to a new church just getting off the ground is also discussed.

### 10. Growth and Foundations for Health

The issues of spiritual gifts, money, and children are so practical and unique in the context of the simple/organic church. Churches that start right in these areas are more likely to have a life of impact for generations to come. Thinking these things through organically, though, requires some shifts in our paradigms.

## Tending the Churches for Healthy Fruitfulness

### 11. Tending the Church and Divine Truth

Doctrine is important in the church of Jesus. But the need to shift our understanding from "content" to "health" is important and the idea of learning as a cluster of churches in a network is also addressed. Orderly "prophecy" is also discussed.

### 12. Tending the Church and Nurturing Relationships

Not a classroom or a business or a hospital, the church is best defined as a spiritual family. Understanding the church in this regard can transform how we relate generationally, how we meet the needs within our body and even how we and carry out discipline!

### 13. Tending the Church and Apostolic Mission

Godly and reproducing leadership is key to perpetuating the mission of the gospel through simple churches. In addition, the mission of a sent people needs continued attention. This session focusing on building and maintaining healthy and ongoing ministry into the harvest

## Harvesting Crops of Disciplemaking Leaders and Churches

### 14. Harvesting Disciplemaking Leaders

Reproduction of leaders is foundational and natural in organic churches. Developing leaders simply and yet sufficiently is a fine line. How are leaders prepared from the harvest and for the harvest? How are they infused with leadership skills and theological depth?